AMENDMENT

Kindly amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1-16, without prejudice, to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~M~~method of quantifying viral ~~or bacterial~~ particles having a cholesterol-containing envelope~~,~~ comprising the steps of: staining ~~wherein~~ the particles ~~are stained~~ with a fluorogenic polyene macrolide and quantitatively determining ~~the~~ fluorescence signals of the individual particles by counting the fluorescence signals under a fluorescence microscope ~~are then quantitatively determined~~ to provide a particle number.

2. (Currently Amended) The m~~M~~ethod according to claim 1, wherein the method is applied to retroviruses, orthomyxoviruses, paramyxoviruses, togaviruses, bunyaviruses, rhabdoviruses, filoviruses, arenoviruses, coronaviruses, herpesviruses, flaviviruses, hepadnaviruses, poxviruses or irdoviruses.

3 (Currently Amended) The m~~M~~ethod according to claim 1, wherein the method is applied to HIV, measles virus, influenza virus, murine leukaemia virus or mycoplasmas.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The m~~M~~ethod according to claim 1, wherein the polyene macrolide is filipin ~~is used as the polyene macrolide~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The m~~M~~ethod according to claim 5, wherein the filipin fluorescence is excited at a wavelength of 387 ± 14nm and the counting is carried out at the emission wavelength of 450 ± 29 nm.

7. (Currently Amended) The m~~M~~ethod according to claim 1, wherein ~~for quantitative determination,~~ the number and/or concentration of fluorescent particles is compared

to ~~the~~ a known number and/or concentration of ~~specified~~ fluorescent particles as a reference standard.

8. (Currently Amended) The m~~M~~ethod according to claim 7, wherein ~~for comparison,~~ the fluorescent particles as the reference standard are ~~specified that are~~ from 0.5 times to twice as large as~~, especially, about the same size as,~~ the particles being quantified.

9. (Currently Amended) The m~~M~~ethod according to claim 7, wherein ~~for comparison,~~ the ~~inert~~ fluorescent particles as the reference standard ~~are specified~~ are inert fluorescent particles.

10. (Currently Amended) A k~~K~~it of parts for quantifying viral or bacterial particles having a cholesterol-containing envelope, which comprises

a fluorogenic polyene macrolide and

~~(as optional constituent)~~ fluorescent particles as a reference standard.

11. (Currently Amended) The k~~K~~it of parts according to claim 10, wherein the reference standard is present in an aqueous medium.

12. (Currently Amended) The k~~K~~it of parts according to claim 10, wherein the fluorescent particles of the reference standard are inert particles.

13. (Currently Amended) The k~~K~~it of parts according to claim 10, wherein the fluorescent particles of the reference standard are from 0.5 times to twice as large as~~, and especially about the same size as,~~ the particles being quantified.

14. (Currently Amended) The k~~K~~it of parts according to claim 10, wherein the polyene macrolide is ~~having~~ filipin ~~as the polyene macrolide~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of using ~~Use of~~ a fluorogenic polyene macrolide ~~especially filipin,~~ for quantifying viral particles having a cholesterol-containing envelope

comprising the steps of: staining the viral particle with the fluorogenic polyene macrolide and quantifying fluorescence signals of the viral particles under a fluorescence microscope.

16 (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the fluorescent particles reference standard is about the same size as the particles being quantified.

17. (New) The kit of parts according to claim 13, wherein the fluorescent particles of the reference standard are about the same size as the particles being quantified.

18. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the polyene macrolide is filipin.